

REMARKS

The Office Communication dated April 30, 2008, has been received and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

I. THE ALLOWABILITY OF CLAIMS 1-2, 4-6, AND 19-20

Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 1 of the Office Communication that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, pursuant to the Decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decided on February 6, 2008.

Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3 (now cancelled) in accordance with the suggestion provided by Examiner Luan V. Van.<sup>1</sup>

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned rejection of claims 1-2, 4-6, and 19-20 be withdrawn.

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<sup>1</sup> In a telephone conference on May 9, 2008, Examiner Luan V. Van confirmed that rewriting claims 3-5 in independent form would put the claims in condition for allowance. Examiner Van also suggested two possibilities for rewriting the allowable claims: (1) that each of claims 3, 4, and 5 be rewritten in independent form, (2) that claim 3 be rewritten in independent form and claims 4-5 rewritten to depend from claim 3, or (2) that claim 1 be rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of claims 3. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 based on suggestion (2).

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

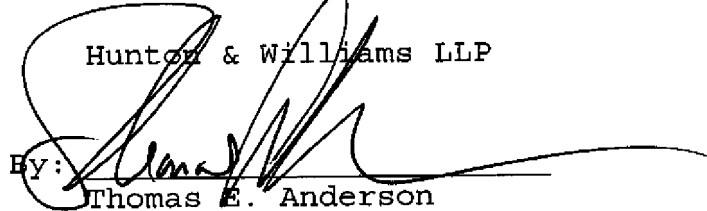
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Patent Application  
Attorney Docket No.: 57983.000131  
Client Reference No.: 15901ROUS01U

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 21, 2008